

## **Chapter 4.9: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources**

---

Implementation of the Project involves a commitment of a range of natural, physical, human, and fiscal resources. Land used in the construction of the proposed bridge is considered an irreversible commitment, because the land will become part of the railroad route. While the No Action Alternative would require no change in land uses, the Preferred Alternative would occupy small areas of Letchworth State Park and adjacent rural land, as well as existing railroad right-of-way. As noted elsewhere in this DEIS, in exchange for the use of this parkland, Norfolk Southern would convey to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation an equivalent amount of land from the existing railroad right-of-way to become part of Letchworth State Park.

Fossil fuels, labor, and construction materials such as cement, aggregate, and bituminous material would be expended irretrievably during construction of the Project. Additionally, labor and natural resources would be used in the fabrication and preparation of construction materials. These materials are generally not retrievable. However, these resources are not in short supply and their use would not have an adverse effect upon their continued availability. Any construction would also potentially require a one-time expenditure of federal and state funds, which are not retrievable. The short-term use of public funds, construction labor, fossil fuels for construction equipment, and the materials needed to build the bridge would ensure the long-term vitality and enhancement of rail freight operations in New York State, as well as the enhancement of the movement of goods by rail throughout the region.